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plates, many of which are colored, covers the Saturnioid moths, including many species of large size, important as producers of silks, and others injurious to cultivated plants. This does not complete the work planned by Dr. Packard, but includes all the material which was sufficiently elaborated at the time of his death to be available for publication. As the work developed under Dr. Packard's hands, it became increasingly apparent to him that for a broad and philosophical view of the subject it was necessary to take into account the exotic genera and species, and thus the later work is of larger scope than the original title (*Bombycine Moths of North America*) would suggest. The work on the Saturniidae was, in fact, planned on the lines of a monograph of the species of the entire work, with special reference to the transformations, including elaborate new descriptions of all the larvae which could be obtained from any source. The editor found it impracticable to bring the work up to date, to include all known species, and sought only to include some account of lately discovered genera, and to elaborate somewhat more fully the part dealing with North American species. To do more than this would be to unduly increase the size of the volume without corresponding advantages, especially since the added matter would represent merely the republication of descriptions which have already been printed elsewhere. To do less would inconvenience the user of the book, who would look in it for up-to-date information, so far as the plan of the work might lead him to expect. The final result is necessarily imperfect and suffers greatly from the lack of the development and revision the work would have received at the hands of the illustrious author, had he lived; but on the other hand it represents a large positive contribution to entomology, especially on account of its numerous new and detailed descriptions, and the beautiful new illustrations of larvae.

Dr. Packard left comparatively few illustrations of the adult insects, and the absence of pictures of most of the genera discussed was felt to be a serious drawback. Fortunately this difficulty was overcome through the generosity of Mr. J. H. Watson of England, and of the U. S. National Museum, through Dr. H. G. Dyar, and so the published work contains figures, made from photographs, of a very large number of species, many of which are represented by the actual types, while many others are here figured for the first time.

The work here concluded is a continuation of previous investigations published as Volume 7, First Memoir, and Volume 9, Second Memoir, of the Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences.

*The Turquois: A Study of its History, Mineralogy, Geology, Ethnology, Archaeology, Mythology, Folk-lore, and Technology.* BY JOSEPH E. POGUE. Third Memoir of Volume 12 of the Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences. Washington, 1915.

This treatise contains 206 pages and is illustrated by 20 half-tone plates, 2 colored plates, and 6 text-figures. It is concerned with the treatment of

a single precious stone in all its aspects and, though scientific in scope and technical in detail, aims to have a popular appeal and a general interest as well. The first chapter deals with turquoise from the historical standpoint, tracing its position in literature from remote times to the present. Special emphasis is laid upon the mediaeval ideas that obtained regarding this precious stone, and the review affords an epitome of the development of early mineralogic science. Chapter two describes in detail the physical properties of turquoise and discusses its chemical composition. Chapter three is largely geological and is descriptive of the turquoise localities of the world. Special attention is given to the early history of the interesting deposits in the Sinai Peninsula, which were extensively exploited by the Egyptians during the Dynastic Period; and the famous mines near Nishapur in Persia are brought before the reader in the detail their significance deserves. The importance of scarcely known deposits in Central Asia, which have for centuries contributed a notable supply of stones to the Orient, is also pointed out. Chapter four goes into a careful discussion of the origin of turquoise. In chapter five the use of turquoise from a world point of view is taken up and traced from antiquity to the present. The human element is here uppermost and interesting analogies appear in parallel applications by independent peoples. Its employment by the American aborigines leads to especially full treatment of a phase of the subject of considerable ethnologic significance. The position held by turquoise in Tibet and China is discussed in the light of recent investigations by Berthold Laufer. In chapter six the identity of *chalchihuitl*, a species of precious stone used by the Aztecs, is investigated and its bearing on turquoise discussed. The seventh chapter depicts the position of turquoise in the mythology and folklore of the various peoples that have chanced to use this mineral. The superstitions in which the turquoise is concerned are many and varied and afford an interesting parallel to its ornamental application. Chapter eight is given up to the more technical aspects of the subject, wherein the mining, cutting, means of imitation, and production are considered. The final section is an annotated bibliography, comprising upwards of 400 titles, which forms a reasonably complete record of the works that touch on turquoise.